

Message Text

SECRET

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42

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7646

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T AMMAN 2152

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGSS: PFOR MASS JO US SA

SUBJECT: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE

REF: (A) JIDDA 2878, (B) STATE 096381, (C) STATE 093532

1. I WAS ABLE TO SEE KING EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 21 ABOUT
PARA 2, REFTEL B. I TOLD KING THAT I HAD THREE POINTS
TO MAKE TO HIM: (A) THAT WE APPEARED TO BE MAKING
PROGRESS WITH SAUDIS. (B) THE SAUDIS WERE DISTURBED
BY JORDANIAN STATEMENT IN LONDON WHICH THEY TOOK AS AIMED
DIRECTLY AGAINST THEM AND (C) THEY HELD PRIME MINISTER
RIFAI RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT STATEMENT. I TOOK THE LIBERTY
OF ADDING THE GRACE NOTE THAT SAUDIS CONTINUE TO RESPECT
AND ADMIRE THE KING. I THEN TLD KING THAT IT WAS
PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT IN OUR EYES, WHILE THIS PROBLEM
WAS BEINGWORKED ON BY US WITH THE SAUDIS THAT NO FURTHER
PUBLIC STATEMENTS BE MADE. KING SAID HE SAW NO REASON OR NEED
FOR ANY FURTHER PUBLIC STATMENTS FROM JORDAN.
I THANKED KING FOR HIS COOPERATIONS.

2. KING ADDED FOR ME THAT RIFAI'S STATEMENT AS RIFAI
HAD TOLD ME EARLIER WAS DESIGNED TO TRY TO TAKE SOME
OF THE ANTI SAUDI STING OUT OF THE JORDANIAN PRESS CONFERENCE
STATEMENT IN THE US WHICH APEARED TO PIN BLAME ON
SAUDIS. I TOLD KING THAT WAS WHAT RIFAI HAD TOLD ME
BUT OBVIOUSLY SAUDIS HAD NOT SEEN THE SITUATION IN THAT

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LIGHT. KING ALSO SAID THAT ASIDE FROM SENDING LETTER

TO FAHD ASKING ABOUT DEPOSIT OF \$300 MILLION HE WOULD
DO NOTHING ELSE AND CONSIDERED THE MATTER AT PRESENT
AS SOLELY BETWEEN THE US AND SAUDI ARABIA.

3. I THOUGHT IT BEST TO SEE KING ON QUESTION
IMMEDIATELY AND DIRECTLY HE IS CLEARLY MORE SYMPATHETIC
WITH THE IDEA OF STAYING QUIET. HE IS ALSO THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN KEEP RIFAI IN CHECK. I WILL KEEP AFTER RIFAI ON
THIS ALSO AT THE NEXT OPPORTUNITY.
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PROCUREMENT, AIR DEFENSE, PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976AMMAN02152
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760151-0214
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760441/aaaabikc.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 JIDDA 2878, 76 STATE 96381, 76 STATE 93532
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDAN AIR DEFENSE
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, JO, US, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006